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Rat Queens Volume 1: Sass & Sorcery



Synopsis

Who are the Rat Queens? A pack of booze-guzzling, death-dealing battle maidens-for-hire, and they're in the business of killing all god's creatures for profit. It's also a darkly comedic sass-and-sorcery series starring Hannah the Rockabilly Elven Mage, Violet the Hipster Dwarven Fighter, Dee the Atheist Human Cleric and Betty the Hippy Smidgen Thief. This modern spin on an old school genre is a violent monster-killing epic that is like Buffy meets Tank Girl in a Lord of the Rings world on crack! Collecting the first five issues of the sold-out hit series at the special introductory price of \$9.99!

Book Information

Series: Rat Queens (Book 1)

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (291 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This volume collects the first five comics in the Rat Queens series. I couldn't find much in the way of a description or review of the Rat Queens, so I went right to this collection to get the full story. Well, the bottom line is that this is the first sword-and-sorcery action comic collection I've seen, ever, that is really and truly funny. The four Rat Queens, a band of maiden mercenaries, are, more or less: 1) Dee, a reformed squid cult member, 2) Hannah, conjurer and the daughter of a twisted pair of necromancers, 3) Betty, who acts like an airhead party girl, and 4) Violet, who uses her sword ironically. Early on the four are sprung from jail, in which they've been held because of excessive brawling and troublemaking, and sent away to clean out a goblin cave. On the way the Queens get very upset with Betty when they find out that all she has packed in the food bag is candy and drugs. That sort of gives you an idea of this series' vibe. That said, the real plot is that someone is trying to

wipe out all of the mercenary bands in town, including the Rat Queens. It's time for them to take matters into their own hands. Actually, it's always that time. The rest of the story, (no SPOILERS here), is all mayhem and wisecracks. Each of the Queens has personality to spare. This is not one of those comics where all of the characters look alike and each figure has the same expression no matter what's going on. These are well drawn and expressive characters, with clean and clear action sequences and a nice sense of movement and place. The cursing is very creative and the insults that get hurled all over are even more creative. This is funny, bawdy, ripe stuff which, if anything, is highlighted by a few quieter and more touching scenes.

OK, I admit I came late to the party. When I first saw this solicited, I thought this was just another anthropomorphic comic. "Looks like a Mouse Guard rip off" I incorrectly believed. Luckily my comic loving friends kept recommending Rat Queens to me or I really would have missed out on this fun and beautifully illustrated book. For those of you not in the know, the Rat Queens are not rats but rather a quartet of female adventurers. They are Hannah the tattooed elf mage. Betty the mighty mite who equally loves drugs, sex and candy. Violet the dwarven warrior who needs to shave her beard. And lastly Dee, who's family worship a Lovecraftian Squid Deity. The book reads like a high octane D&D module with a ton of humor and wit thrown in. This book is either a fantastic introductory volume or a great upgrade to your trades. It is oversized with larger pages and better paper than the regular trade edition. It also features a glossy laminated cover with a silver foil embossed Rat Queens logo. The combined page count of the first two Trades are 264 pages while this volume runs 304 pages giving you 40 additional pages including the complete Braga one shot comic plus several one page stories. Plus covers and alternative covers, design work and samples. The first five issues form the inaugural story which introduces the Rat Queens and a plot by an undisclosed source to eliminate all the adventuring groups from their medieval hometown of Palisade. This first story is pretty light hearted despite all the bloody carnage. It was really the second arc that really won me over. This storyline ran in issues #6 through #10 and features the tenacled God from Dee's home town.

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